



PATENT
TH-0681N (US)
DFH:EM

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Donald F. Haas

Date: February 6, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)

DAVID M. SINGLETON, LOUIS KRAVETZ,)
BRENDAN D. MURRAY)

Serial No. 09/655,964)

Group Art Unit: 1751

Filed September 6, 2000)

Examiner: Necholus Ogden Jr.

HIGHLY BRANCHED PRIMARY ALCOHOL)
COMPOSITIONS, AND BIODEGRADABLE)
DETERGENTS MADE THEREFROM)

February 6, 2004

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

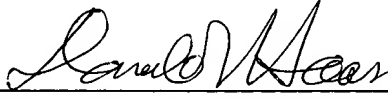
These remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action of December 18, 2003. All of the pending claims except claim 101 have been rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Singleton (U.S. Patent 5,780,694). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The effective date of the Singleton reference for purposes of 102(e) prior art is its filing date, November 26, 1996. The present application claims priority to Serial No. 09/133,303 which is a divisional of Serial No. 08/755,843 which was also filed on November 26, 1996. Thus, the Singleton patent is not prior art with respect to the present application. The Applicants assert that

the rejection should be withdrawn since it is based on a reference which is not prior art. An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID M. SINGLETON, LOUIS KRAVETZ,
and BRENDAN D. MURRAY

By _____

Their Attorney, Donald F. Haas
Registration No. 26,177
(713) 241-3356

P. O. Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77252-2463